

One bad period sends EMCA reeling

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Michael Jones boots an EMCA field goal in the third quarter to get the Wildcats on the board.

Photo: Todd Self

By ART PARKER

It looked like East Memorial Christian Academy (EMCA) could pull off an upset last Thursday night in Alabaster. The Wildcats were going toe to toe with Kingwood Christian and at the end of the first quarter the score was level at 0-0.

And then something happened. And it was unfavorable to EMCA. Kingwood, now 4-1, possesses one of the better offenses in the AISA. The Lions offense came alive and the Wildcats defense went to sleep as Kingwood changed the scoreboard four times in the second

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quarter and went to the locker room at intermission leading 25-0. Things improved some for EMCA in the second half as the Wildcats scored twice. The Wildcats kicked a field goal from 30 yards, courtesy of Michael Jones. They scored again in the fourth quarter with a 35 yard run by Sean O'Brien. But when the final horn sounded the Wildcats had taken their third consecutive loss at 38-9.

"Everything went wrong in the second quarter after a very good first quarter," EMCA assistant coach Greg Parker said. "We made some good adjustments at halftime and things improved. If you take away the second quarter we play a pretty good game. It was hard on us to get points on the board because our passing game was compromised. Our offensive line struggled all night and it hampered our ability to complete passes."

EMCA is now 1-3 on the season, however, the team is still in the playoff hunt since its region record is 1-1. Next week the Wildcats will travel to Harpersville for a region match with Coosa Valley, a much improved team over last year. The line of scrimmage will be an issue for EMCA again since Coosa Valley will present fronts as big as the Wildcats have seen all year.